

III. White County Health Council

The White County Health Council was established in 1994 by the Upper Cumberland Community Health Agency currently known as the Upper Cumberland Community Services Agency. The Health Council's membership is comprised of community leaders representing various agencies. (Attachment 1) The Department of Health Community Development Staff coordinated with the White County Health Council in January of 1996 in order to facilitate the Community Diagnosis Process. The Health Council's dedication and commitment to the process was evident through their willingness to become one of the state's pilot projects for the Community Diagnosis Process.

During the course of the Community Diagnosis Process, the White County Health Council established **Bylaws** (Attachment 2) that reflect the mission and goals of the council illustrating their commitment to their community. The Council typically meets on the last Tuesday of each month from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. where meetings are open to the public.

Mission Statement

The White County Health Council is to act as an independent advisory organization whose purpose is to facilitate the *availability, accessibility* and *affordability* of quality health care within the White County community.

Goals

The goals of the Council are:

- to assess the present and future health care needs of the White County community
- to examine the available health care, economic, political and social resources
- to address unmet health care needs, improve existing services, and solve specific health care problems within the community.

From its analysis, the Council will:

- formally define health care problems and needs within the community
- develop goals, objectives and plans of action to address these needs
- formally identify all resources which are available to effect solutions.

The council has coordinated county-wide community health fairs on an annual basis since its existence. The National Mediguard has been extremely supportive of White County and has assisted in community-wide screenings each year since 1996. Widespread media coverage and public relations have become an intricate part of the council. News releases are published on a regular basis in the local newspaper summarizing the council's activities and progress in Community Diagnosis. There is much local support to provide community awareness as to the assessment of the health care needs of White County.